

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 LAGOS 09194 011606Z

50

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 IO-14 NIC-01 SAM-01 CU-05 FEAE-00 AID-20

COME-00 EB-12 FRB-03 TRSE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12 CIEP-03

LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01 DRC-01 /181 W

----- 085670

P 011105Z SEPT 74

FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6260

UNCLAS LAGOS 9194

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, NI

SUBJECT: GOWON INDEPENDENCE DAY SPEECH

SUMMARY: IN HOUR AND HALF "STATE OF NATION" ADDRESS, GOWON

-----

ANNOUNCED OCTOBER 1 SMC DECISION NOT TO ADHERE TO 1976 TARGET DATE FOR TURNOVER OF GOVERNMENT TO CIVILIANS, MAINTENANCE OF BAN ON POLITICAL ACTIVITY, APPOINTMENT OF NEW FEDERAL COMMISSIONERS (MOSTLY MILITARY), REASSIGNMENT OF STATE MILITARY GOVERNORS AND REVIEWED PROGRAMS FMG WOULD BE UNDERTAKING AS PART OF THIRD NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN DUE TO COMMENCE IN APRIL 1975. FINAL CENSUS FIGURES NOT EXPECTED UNTIL END OF YEAR. AS MEASURE OF NATIONAL RECONCILIATION MILITARY DETAINEES (INCLUDING ONE PORTUGUESE SOLDIER) ARE TO BE RELEASED. END.

1. HEAD OF STATE, GENERAL GOWON, MARKING 14TH ANNIVERSARY INDEPENDENCE CELEBRATIONS, MADE HOUR AND HALF "STATE OF NATION" ADDRESS. HIGHLIGHT OF STATEMENT WAS ANNOUNCEMENT THAT WHILE FMG STILL BELIEVED IN RETURN TO CIVILIAN RULE, SMC HAD DECIDED THAT 1976 TARGET DATE TO BE UNREALISTIC AND THAT IT WOULD BE BETRAYAL OF PUBLIC TRUST FOR FMG TO ADHERE TO IT. JUSTIFICATION FOR DE-  
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 LAGOS 09194 011606Z

CISION WAS BASED ON EVENTS OF LAST THREE MONTHS, WHICH MADE IT EVIDENT THAT THOSE WHO ASPIRED TO LEAD NATION HAD NOT LEARNED FROM PAST, AND THAT SECTIONAL RIVALRY WAS BEING INFLAMED. THERE WAS HIGH DEGREE OF INTEMPERATE POLITIKING AND RETURN TO OLD "CUT-THROAT" POLITICS WAS APPARENT. THIS, HE STRESSED, WAS NOT WISH OF ORDINARY CITIZEN AND IT WOULD BE IRRESPONSIBLE TO "LEAVE NATION IN LURCH". CIVILIAN GOVERNMENT WILL RETURN ONLY WHEN THERE NO THREAT TO PEACE AND STABILITY OF COUNTRY, AND SELF-SUSTAINING SYSTEM TO INSURE THIS STABILITY WAS INSTITUTED. IN VIEW OF CURRENT CONDITIONS, GOWON FURTHER ANNOUNCED MAINTENANCE OF BAN ON POLITICAL ACTIVITY BUT NOTED THAT PANEL WOULD BE ESTABLISHED SOON FOR PURPOSE OF DRAFTING NEW CONSTITUTION.

2. HEAD OF STATE SAID NEW FEDERAL COMMISSIONERS, WHO WILL BE PRIMARILY DRAWN FROM MILITARY AND POLICE, WOULD BE APPOINTED JANUARY 1, 1975. A FEW CIVILIAN COMMISSIONERS WILL ALSO BE IN CABINET. IN ADDITION, STATE MILITARY GOVERNORS ARE TO BE RE-ASSIGNED AFTER LAUNCHING OF THIRD NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN.

3. ON OTHER QUESTIONS COVERED BY FMG NINE-POINT PROGRAM, GOWON SAID THAT EXPERT COMMITTEE IS CURRENTLY REVIEWING CENSUS FIGURES AND FINAL COUNT WAS NOT TO BE ANNOUNCED UNTIL END OF YEAR. A NEW REVENUE ALLOCATION FORMULA HAD BEEN OUTLINED WHICH IS INCLUDED IN THIRD NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN. FMG WAS COMMITTED TO CREATION OF NEW STATES BEFORE TURNOVER TO CIVILIANS, BUT GOWON DID NOT GIVE ANY DETAILS. ON QUESTION OF CORRUPTION, GOWON NOTED ALTHOUGH IT STILL AROUND STEPS BEING TAKEN TO COMBAT IT. WITHIN MILITARY, TRIBUNALS HAD BEEN SET UP AND ACTION HAD BEEN TAKEN AGAINST OFFICERS INCLUDING SOME IN SENIOR RANKS (NO NAMES MENTIONED). MEASURES HAVE BEEN ALSO INSTITUTED TO DEAL WITH CORRUPTION IN CIVILIAN SECTOR. PROVEN CASES OF CORRUPTION, HE SAID, WOULD BE DEALT WITH SEVERELY.

4. AFTER COMMENDING ARMED FORCES FOR ROLE THEY PLAYING IN MAINTAINING UNITY OF COUNTRY AND APPEALING TO NATION TO STEER CLEAR OF ACTIVITIES WHICH COULD RESULT IN ANOTHER UPHEAVAL NIGERIA COULD ILL AFFORD, GOWON ANNOUNCED SALARY AND CONDITIONS OF SERVICE REVIEW FOR MILITARY. IN ADDITION, HE CALLED FOR WORKERS TO BE PATIENT AS FMG STUDIED RESULTS OF UDOJI COMMISSION STUDY. HE EXPRESSED HOPE THAT BY BEGINNING OF 1975 EVERYTHING WOULD BE DONE TO GET INCREASES IN SALARIES. PRIVATE SECTOR WOULD UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 LAGOS 09194 011606Z

BE KEPT INFORMED IN ORDER TO INSURE "INDUSTRIAL PEACE".

5. IN AREA OF NATIONAL RECONCILIATION, GOWON DECLARED RELEASE OF MILITARY PRISONERS DETAINED SINCE CIVIL WAR, INCLUDING ONE PORTUGUESE SOLDIER.

6. ON DEVELOPMENT FRONT, GOWON REVIEWED ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF

SECOND NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN, AND SAID IT HAD BEEN EXTENDED TO END MARCH 1975. THIRD DEVELOPMENT PLAN TO COMMENCE IN APRIL 1975, AND TO END 31 MARCH 1980. EMPHASIS WILL BE PLACED ON AGRICULTURE, LOCAL INDUSTRY, POWER, TRANSPORTATION, COMMUNICATIONS, EDUCATION, INFORMATION AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT. REVENUE ALLOCATION, WHICH WILL BE REGULARLY REVISED AND BASED ON "DISTRIBUTABLE POOL ACCOUNT SYSTEM" WILL BE SUCH THAT NO "UNIT OF FEDRATION WILL BE HANDICAPPED BY LACK OF FUNDS" (DETAILED ANALYSIS TO BE SENT SEPTTEL)

7. ON FMG'S FOREIGN POLICY, GOWON MERELY REITERATED NIGERIA'S CONTINUED COOPERATION WITH OTHER COUNTRIES, SUPPORT FOR ERADICATION OF COLONIALISM, WELCOMED INDEPENDENCE OF GUINEA BISSAU AND DESCRIBED ESTABLISHMENT OF TRANSITIONAL GOVERNMENT IN MOZAMBIQUE AND NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN PORTUGUESE GOVERNMENT AND ANGOLAN LIBERATION MOVEMENTS AS SIGNIFICANT ACHIEVEMENTS. HE ALSO CHARACTERIZED HIS TRIPS TO UN, CHINA, USSR AS BENEFICIAL.

COMMENT: MOST STARTLING ASPECT, ALTHOUGH NOT ALTOGETHER SURPRIS-

-----  
ING, OF " STATE OF NATION" SPEECH WAS ANNOUNCEMENT OF FMG POSSIBLY REMAINING IN POWER BEYOND 1976 AND CONTINUANCE OF BAN PF POLITICAL ACTIVITY. STATEMENT LIKELY TO PRODUCE WIDESPREAD DISCONTENT. DEVELOPMENT PORTION OF SPEECH WAS RESTATEMENT OF FMG PRIORITIES AND OUTLINE OF HOW NEWLY INCREASED REVENUE FROM OIL SALES WILL BE DISPERSED. EMBASSY WILL PROVIDE MORE DETAILED COMMENTS WHEN FULL TEXT OF SPEECH AVAILABLE.

REINHARDT

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* n/a

\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* UNCLASSIFIED

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** INDEPENDENCE CELEBRATIONS, SPEECHES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 01 SEP 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1974LAGOS09194  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** n/a  
**Errors:** n/a  
**Film Number:** D740276-1098  
**From:** LAGOS  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1974/newtext/t19740983/aaaahlpw.tel  
**Line Count:** 147  
**Locator:** TEXT ON MICROFILM, TEXT ON-LINE  
**Office:** ACTION AF  
**Original Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
**Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** martinjw  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 18 JUL 2002  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <18 JUL 2002 by maustmc>; APPROVED <27 JAN 2003 by martinjw>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** <DBA CORRECTED> srp 971118  
**Subject:** GOWON INDEPENDENCE DAY SPEECH  
**TAGS:** PINT, NI, (GOWON)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005